

Message Text

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22

ACTION CU-04

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R 251314Z JUN 76 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO USINFO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1039

USIA FOR IBS, IPS, IAA
LAGOS FOR VOA JOHN ROBERTS
PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: IMPRESSIVE SUCCESS OF (MALAGASY) BICENTENNIAL CHOIR

REF: CM-621, 5/27/76

1. OVER 300 PEOPLE FILLED THE CULTURAL CENTER'S LOUNGE
TO HEAR THE BICENTENNIAL CHOIR'S FIRST PERFORMANCE
JUNE 23, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LUCIEN RANDRIANARIVELO,
CONDUCTOR OF TANANARIVE'S SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA.

2. RAIN CHECKS FOR THE CHOIR'S SECOND CONCERT ON FRIDAY
JULY 2 WERE GIVEN TO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO
WERE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF SPACE.

3. THE CHOIR COMPOSED OF EIGHTY YOUNG MALAGASY (SEE
TANANARIVE 950 AND 975) SANG 15 SONGS IN ENGLISH FROM
THE J.C. PENNEY BICENTENNIAL MUSICAL CELEBRATION COLLECTION.
"ILL TAKE SUGAR IN MY COFFEE-O" BY JESTER HAIRSTON WAS
ENCORED. ERNEST BLOCH'S "AMERICA" WAS WARMLY APPLAUSED
THE AUDIENCE SANG WITH THE CHOIR THE WORDS OF MITCH
LEIGH'S "THE DREAM IS AMERICA":
"THE DREAM IS TO BE FREE
THE CHANCE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

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TO BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE"

4. AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, THE GOVERNOR OF TANANARIVE
PROVINCE, COLONEL REMI RATSIMBAZAFY PERSONALLY PRESENTED

EACH CHOIR MEMBER WITH A COPY OF THE NEWLY-COMPLETED
MALAGASY TRANSLATION OF "AN OUTLINE OF U.S. HISTORY",
PUBLISHED BY RSC BEIRUT.

5. THE PRESS GAVE EXCEPTIONAL COVERAGE TO THE EVENT.
ON JUNE 24, MADAGASCAR PRESSE AND MADAGASCAR MATIN PUBLISHED BRIEF REPORTS. ON JUNE 25, THE MALAGASY LANGUAGE DAILY MARESAKA (INDEPENDENT) RAN AN ARTICLE UNDER THE TITLE "LIBERTY SONGS", ASSOCIATED MADAGASCAR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY (JUNE 26) WITH THE MEANING OF THE 4TH OF JULY AND GAVE THE BACKGROUND OF PENNEY'S BICENTENNIAL COLLECTION AS OUTLINED BY THE PAO IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON JUNE 23. THE SAME SAY, MADAGASCAR MATIN PUBLISHED A THREE COLUMN INTERVIEW WITH CONDUCTOR LUCIEN RANDRIANARIVELO. AMONG HIS OTHER STATEMENTS, MR. RANDRIANARIVELO REMARKED THAT: "TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF A CONTINUOUS POLITICAL SYSTEM IS A MESSAGE OF UNIVERSAL SCOPE PROFITABLE TO ALL MANKIND" (FRENCH:..DEUX CENTS ANS DE REGIME NATIONAL SANS CHANGEMENT PROUVE QU'UN TEL SYSTEME COMPORTE UN MESSAGE DE PORTEE UNIVERSELLE PROFITABLE A L'HUMANITE ENTIERE...) AND "...THE HUMANITARIAN MESSAGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED..." (FRENCH:... LE MESSAGE HUMANITAIRE DE LA REVOLUTION AMERICAINE NE DOIT PAS PASSER INAPERCU...). "...IT IS ALWAYS SIGNIFICANT TO KNOW THE MOTIVES THAT PROMPT PEOPLE TO ESCAPE THE YOKE OF THE COLONISER..." (...LES MOTIFS QUI POUSSENT UN PEUPLE A ECHAPPER AU JOUG DU COLONISATEUR SONT TOUJOURS BONS A CONNAITRE...).

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